

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for tracking and processing redemption of rebates from a plurality of vendors, ~~the computer system comprising:~~

~~maintaining in electronic form a multi-vendor rebate list with rebate data for rebates associated with each of the vendors;~~ ~~comprising:~~

~~receiving in electronic form a multi-vendor rebate list related message from a vendor; and~~

~~in response to the received message, dispensing to the vendor in near real-time rebate redemption information related to a portion of the multi-vendor rebate list relating to associated with the vendor.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispensing ~~rebate redemption~~ information related to the portion of the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

~~transmitting data to inform a vendor of specific rebate redemption data.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate ~~redemption~~ data further comprises:

~~transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of a payment owed to at least one retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate redemption transaction.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate ~~redemption~~ data further comprises:

~~transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of a payment owed to at least one retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate redemption transaction and a specified period of time.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate redemption data further comprises:

transmitting data to inform ~~at least one~~ of a manufacturer, a wholesaler, and/or a retailer of specific rebate redemption data.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate redemption data further comprises:

transmitting data to inform a retailer of a payment owed to the retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate redemption transaction.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate redemption data further comprises:

transmitting data to inform a retailer of a payment owed to the retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate redemption transaction and a specified period of time.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the dispensing information related to the portion of maintaining~~ the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

recording a rebate transaction.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the recording the rebate transaction further comprises:

adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter in response to the message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the rebate vehicle comprises ~~at least one~~ of a coupon and/or an in-store special.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispensing information related to the portion of the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

 sending a response message that a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter has been adjusted in response to a message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed .

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispensing information related to the portion of the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

 sending a response message that contains ~~at least one~~ of a value of a rebate and ~~at least one~~ or a limit on a quantity of a rebate in response to a message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the received multi-vendor rebate list related message is that at least one rebate vehicle associated with the vendor has been redeemed.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the receiving the message that at least one rebate vehicle has been redeemed further comprises:

 determining from the message an indication of origination of the rebate vehicle.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the received message that at least one rebate vehicle has been redeemed is associated with at least one scanner of the vendor.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the receiving the message associated with the at least one scanner of the vendor further comprises:

 receiving the message via at least one central computer.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the receiving the message associated with the at least one scanner of the vendor further comprises:

receiving the message via at least one computer local to ~~at least one of a retailer and or a manufacturer.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the multi-vendor rebate list related message from the vendor further comprises:

receiving a message inquiring as to monies owed.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the multi-vendor rebate list related message from the vendor further comprises:

receiving a message associated with ~~at least one of a retailer and~~or a manufacturer.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispensing information related to the portion of the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

transmitting data to inform a vendor as to monies owed for the dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting billing data to a vendor for the dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the transmitting billing data to the vendor for the dispensing information further comprises:

transmitting billing data having a fee based upon ~~at least one of~~ answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a value of rebate transactions, ~~and~~or a number of rebate transactions.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer system for tracking and redemption of rebates from a plurality of vendors, the system comprising:

means for maintaining in near real-time a data structure for a multi-vendor rebate list with rebate data for rebates associated with each of the vendors, comprising:

means for receiving a multi-vendor rebate list related message in electronic form from a vendor; and

means for dispensing in near real-time rebate redemption information related to the multi-vendor rebate list to the vendor in response to receiving the message.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

means for transmitting data to inform a vendor of specific rebate data.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the means for transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate data further comprises:

means for transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of a payment owed to at least one retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate transaction.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the means for transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate data further comprises:

means for transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of a payment owed to at least one retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the means for transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate data further comprises:

means for transmitting data to inform ~~at least one of~~ a manufacturer, a wholesaler, and/or a retailer of specific rebate data.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the means for transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate data further comprises:

means for transmitting data to inform a retailer of a payment owed to the retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate transaction.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the means for transmitting data to inform the vendor of specific rebate data further comprises:

means for transmitting data to inform a retailer of a payment owed to the retailer, the payment based, at least in part, on at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for dispensing information related to maintaining the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

means for recording a rebate transaction.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the means for recording the rebate transaction further comprises:

means for adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter in response to the message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the rebate vehicle comprises at least one of a coupon and/or an in-store special.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

means for sending a response message that a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter has been adjusted in response to a message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

means for sending a response message that contains ~~at least one of~~ a value of a rebate and ~~at least one or~~ limit on a quantity of a rebate in response to a message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the received multi-vendor rebate list related message is that at least one rebate vehicle has been redeemed.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35 wherein the means for receiving the message that at least one rebate vehicle has been redeemed further comprises:

means for determining from the message an indication of origination of the rebate vehicle.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35 wherein the received message that at least one rebate vehicle has been redeemed is: associated with at least one scanner of the vendor.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37 wherein the means for receiving the message associated with the at least one scanner of the vendor further comprises:

means for receiving the message via at least one central computer.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37 wherein the means for receiving the message associated with the at least one scanner of the vendor further comprises:

means for receiving the message via at least one computer local to ~~at least one of~~ a retailer ~~and or~~ a manufacturer.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for receiving the multi-vendor rebate list related message from the vendor further comprises:

means for receiving a message inquiring as to monies owed.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for receiving the multi-vendor rebate list related message from the vendor further comprises:

means for receiving a message associated with ~~at least one of~~ a retailer and or a manufacturer.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list further comprises:

means for transmitting data to inform a vendor as to monies owed for the dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, further comprising:

means for transmitting billing data to a vendor for the dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43 wherein the means for transmitting billing data to the vendor for the dispensing information further comprises:

means for transmitting billing data having a fee based upon ~~at least one of~~ answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a value of rebate transactions, and or a number of rebate transactions.

45. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for tracking and processing redemption of rebates from a plurality of vendors, the computer system maintaining a multi-vendor rebate list with rebate data for rebates associated with each of the vendors, comprising:

displaying in near real-time information on a display device in response to receiving a multi-vendor rebate list vendor identifier.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the vendor identifier is ~~at least one of~~ a user identifier, a password, a cookie, and or an encrypted symbol.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the displaying information further comprises:

displaying vendor-specific rebate data.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the displaying vendor-specific rebate data further comprises:

displaying a payment owed to at least one retailer.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the displaying the payment owed further comprises:

displaying the payment owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the displaying the payment owed to at least one retailer further comprises:

displaying the payment owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48 wherein the displaying the payment owed to at least one retailer further comprises:

displaying information regarding ~~at least one of a coupon and~~ or an in-store special transaction.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the displaying vendor-specific rebate data further comprises:

displaying ~~at least one of manufacturer-specific, wholesaler-specific, and~~ or retailer-specific rebate data.

53-56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the displaying information further comprises:

displaying a message as to monies owed.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the displaying information further comprises:

displaying in near real-time information associated ~~with one of a retailer and or a~~ manufacturer that is identified by the received vendor identifier.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:

displaying billing data to a vendor related to dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59 wherein the displaying billing data further comprises:

displaying billing data based upon ~~at least one of~~ answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a value of rebate transactions, ~~and or~~ a number of rebate transactions.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system for tracking and redemption of rebates from a plurality of vendors, comprising:

a data structure configured to maintain in near real-time multi-vendor rebate list having rebate data for rebates associated with each of the vendors;

means for displaying in near real-time information in response to receiving a multi-vendor rebate list vendor identifier in electronic form from a rebate list vendor.

62. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61 wherein the vendor identifier is ~~at least one of~~ a user identifier, a password, a cookie, ~~and or~~ an encrypted symbol.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the means for displaying information further comprises:

means for displaying vendor-specific rebate data.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63 wherein the means for displaying vendor-specific rebate data further comprises:

means for displaying a payment owed to at least one retailer.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 wherein the means for displaying the payment owed further comprises:

means for displaying the payment owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64 wherein the means for displaying the payment owed further comprises:

means for displaying the payment owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 64 wherein the means for displaying the payment owed further comprises:

means for displaying information regarding ~~at least one of a coupon and or an in-store special transaction.~~

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 63 wherein the means for displaying information the vendor-specific rebate data further comprises:

means for displaying ~~at least one of manufacturer-specific, wholesaler-specific, and or retailer-specific rebate data.~~

69-72. (Canceled)

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the means for displaying information further comprises:

means for displaying a message as to monies owed.

74. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61 wherein the means for displaying information further comprises:

means for displaying in near real-time information associated with ~~one~~ ~~of~~ a retailer and or a manufacturer that is identified by the received vendor identifier.

75. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising:

means for displaying billing data to a vendor related to dispensing information related to the multi-vendor rebate list.

76. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 75 wherein the means for displaying billing data related further comprises:

means for displaying billing based upon ~~at least one of~~ answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a value of rebate transactions, and or a number of rebate transactions.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispensing information further comprises:

dispensing information related to the portion of the multi-vendor rebate list in near real-time.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving a multi-vendor rebate list related message from the vendor, further comprises:

receiving a message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed by scanning.

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 78 wherein the rebate vehicle is ~~at least one of~~ a coupon and or an in-store discount.

80. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for dispensing information further comprises:

means for dispensing information related to the portion of the multi-vendor rebate list in near real-time.

81. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the means for receiving a multi-vendor rebate list related message from the vendor, further comprises:

means for receiving a message that a rebate vehicle has been redeemed using a scanner.

82. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 81 wherein the rebate vehicle is at least one of a coupon and/or an in-store discount.